



## SEPTEMBER 2019

We hope you all had a fantastic summer in the sunshine and look forward to welcoming all of the children to pre-school over the next two weeks.

### TOPICS FOR THE HALF TERM

Please be aware that we always encourage child initiated play and learning and follow the children's ideas or interests. Therefore, this may take us away from the planned topics or activities.

This half term our main topics will be **Nursery rhymes, traditional stories and favourite stories:**

Week commencing	Topic/s	Colour of the week
3rd - 6th Sept	Traditional Stories - Goldilocks and the Three Bears.	Brown
9th - 13th Sept	Traditional Stories - The Three Little Pigs	Pink
16th - 20th Sept	Traditional Stories - The Gingerbread Man	Yellow
23rd - 27th Sept	Number Rhymes	Blue
30th Sept - 4th Oct	Action Songs	Purple
7th - 11th Oct	Traditional Stories - The Hungry Caterpillar	Green
14th - 18th Oct	Traditional Stories - The Gruffalo and Elma	Multicoloured
21st - 25th Oct	My Favourite Story	Your favourite colour

Each day we will offer a craft activity, generally linked to the topic of the week, but children are also encouraged to investigate the wide selection of resources available. Therefore, items made on the craft table will often vary and reflect the children's interests, preferences and exploration of the available resources.

Craft activities can get messy and whilst we do encourage the children to wear aprons we cannot guarantee that items of clothing will remain clean. Please encourage your child to wear clothing that is not too special and allows them freedom of movement.

## **INFORMATION FOR NEW STARTERS**

If you have not done so already please be sure to return your completed enrolment forms to pre-school before or on your child's first day. These forms provide staff with important information that support a smooth transition process and are crucial to our understanding of your child's individual needs.

## **COFFEE MORNING - THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER**

Everyone is welcome, even if your child does not usually attend on a Thursday they are more than welcome to join us in the setting whilst you are having a tea or coffee. We do ask that you remain on the premises if your child does not normally attend on this day.

Coffee Mornings are an opportunity for you to look at your child's Learning Journal, however if you are not able to attend you are welcome to ask your child's key-worker to see their Learning Journal at any other time. Coffee Mornings will continue to take place on alternating days of the week, once every half term, throughout the academic year.

## **SHOW AND TELL ITEMS**

PLEASE label any items your child brings from home to show at the beginning of the session and avoid bringing anything valuable or precious. We try to encourage a link to the topic or colour of the week. However if a particular item will help your child come to pre-school confidently then that is fine.

## **LABELLING**

PLEASE remember to label your child's bag, coat, sun hat and anything else they may want to bring in. A clear label on the strap or a tag of their bag makes things much easier for us when a child's nappy or clothing needs to be changed, or at home time when we are putting out the coats and bags. We do plan to go to the allotment throughout the coming months so please make sure your child has clothing suitable for outdoors activities and that all items are named. Thank you.

## **FOOTWEAR - WELLIES, CROCS AND SANDALS**

If the weather is wet and your child is wearing wellies to pre-school please ensure that you bring a pair of shoes or plimsoles for them to change into during the morning.

During warmer weather can we please ask that the children do not wear Crocs to pre-school and that sandals are well fitted. It is very clear to staff that the children are less safe on the climbing equipment and soft play when wearing Crocs or poorly fitting sandals.

## **ALLOTMENT**

When we know in advance that we have a volunteer for the allotment it is our intention to give parents notice that their child will be going to the allotment so they can apply sun cream in advance if necessary. In the event of a 'short notice trip' pre-school staff will apply suncream to the children as per the consent forms signed when children joined the pre-school.

*Currently we can only go to the allotment if we have a parent helper so please help us if you can.*

*Trips to the allotment depart after registration, at approximately 09:30, and can be as long or short as you can accommodate. We usually find that a round trip of one hour is enough for most children but if you can offer more or less time we would welcome your support.*

We hope to offer every child frequent opportunities to visit the allotment. The group of children visiting on a particular day is selected on a rota basis. Please be aware that if you do offer to help, your child may not be part of the group on that day. We really appreciate all your support and the children always thoroughly enjoy the trips. If you are able to help please sign up on the 'Allotment Parent Helper Rota' located in the reception area.

## **LIBRARY BOOKS**

We continue to have the library box of books available for you borrow and share with your child at home. Please remember to mark in the 'Library Log' when you take and return a book. We hope you enjoy and make use of this resource.

## **HELPING**

Helping at pre-school is a perfect opportunity to see what your child gets up to and an extra pair of hands during the session is always a help to us. Once your child has settled please sign up, if you can, on the 'Parent Helper Rota' located in the reception area

## **STORY TIME**

At the end of each core session, at approximately 11:50am, we have story time. Each week we aim to have two story times that include an interactive story and two of small group reading. We would like to invite you to join us during a number of these story times. If you choose to join us for an interactive story there is no obligation to participate but you may not be able to resist supporting the children to move around the room like animals, joining in a short and fun Yoga session, helping to use puppets to tell a story or moving around to the story of 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'.. to name but a few of our many story time activities. If you choose to join us during a small group story time you have the choice of sitting with your child while a member of staff reads or you can read to a small group of children yourself. Please see the times and dates of the sessions displayed in the reception area and sign up if you would like to join us.

## **HOMETIME PROCEDURE**

Please remember to inform a member of staff and sign the 'Going Home Book' if someone we have not met before is picking up your child.

## **HELPER OF THE DAY**

Each day we have a child 'helper of the day'. All of the children will get a turn to be the helper and are given the opportunity to complete small, manageable, but important tasks throughout the morning. The helper of the day will also bring home 'Charlie Bear' for an overnight visit. Charlie comes with a book that you can record his visit in. This is very much meant to be an enjoyable experience and not "homework". You can include photos and or notes but please do not feel obliged to do either.

## **ABSENCE AND ILLNESS**

Please notify us in advance, or on the day, if you child is going to be absent from one or more pre-school sessions. In the case of sickness please keep your child at home for 48 hours after their last bout of illness. Sickness and diarrhoea can spread very quickly so we would appreciate everyone following these procedures.

## **PRE-EXISTING INJURIES FORM**

Please be aware that as part of the pre-school's safeguarding obligations it has been recommended to us that we ask all parents / carers to inform us of any pre-existing injuries. If your child arrives at pre-school with an injury that has occurred outside of the setting we would be grateful if you could record this injury and how it occurred on a 'Pre-existing Injury Form' which are located in the reception area. We thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

## **SNACK TIME**

Thank you very much for your contributions towards our daily snack. If you would like to make a contribution please sign the 'Snack List' in reception.

## **WEBSITE**

The pre-school website is gradually becoming less of a work in progress and hopefully more of a useful resource. Please visit the 'News' section which is now being regularly updated with reminders of specific dates in the pre-school calendar and photographs of the various activities the children have been taking part in. You will also find a section of the website containing the 'Latest Newsletter' and a section containing information about the Early Years Foundation Stage; this section also contains links to lots of informative websites related to child development and activities or support available in your local community.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding development of the website please let a member of staff know.

## **CONTACT WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**

If you have an interest, hobby, skill or event of cultural significance that you could, and would like to, share with the pre-school children then please mention it to a member of staff. We welcome any input and thoroughly enjoy having visitors. Over the years we have regularly hosted parents, grand-parents and older siblings who were musicians, historians, artists, nurses, authors or firemen. We would love to extend our repertoire so if you, or anyone you know, would like to join us for all or part of a session then please do.

## **AND FINALLY:**

**We always try to make ourselves available to talk to you but this is not always possible first thing in the morning as settling the children is our main priority.** If you need to tell us something urgently then we will always make time for you but otherwise it is more convenient for members of staff to talk at the end of the session when we have more time. If the subject is personal or requires confidentiality please let us know and we will make the pre-school office available for conversation.

If you have any concerns please share them with us. We are here to help and to make this a positive experience for everyone.

Many thanks

The Pre-School Team